

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-10

/098 W

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R 230745Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LAGOS 10420

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN, XY

SUBJ: FMG DELEGATES JOURNEY TO EXOWAS CAPITALS

REFS: (A) LAGOS 10195 (NOTAL) (B) LAGOS 8914

1. SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL MEMBER AND FEDERAL COMMISSIONER
FOR HEALTH COL. DAN SULEIMAN DEPARTED LAGOS OCT. 20 TO CALL
ON HEADS OF STATE OF NIGER, UPPER VOLTA, SENEGAL, MALI, MAU-
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RITANIA AND GAMBIA. PURPOSE OF VISITS IS TO ALLAY ANY FEARS

ON PART OF OTHER ECOWAS MEMBERS REGARDING NEW FMG'S COMMITMENT TO WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC INTERGRATION. ANOTHER FEDERAL COMMISSIONER REPORTEDLY WILL MAKE THE ROUNDS OF REMAINING COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. APPARENTLY NO DISTINCTION IS BEING MADE BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE RATIFIED ECOWAS TREATY AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT, (SENEGAL, AVAILABLE HERE.)
SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT LAGOS AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE SULEIMAN STRESSED NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO TOTAL SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY AND SAID ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES WOULD BE UTILIZED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.

2. LOCAL PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT FMG NOW MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO CALL AN ECOWAS MINISTERIAL MEETING TO WORK OUT THE COMMUNITY PROTOCOLS AND THUS ALLOW IT TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING. DAILY TIMES INTIMATED THAT SECOND PURPOSE OF SULEIMAN'S MISSION WAS TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO SUCH A MEETING, BUT MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPUTY PERMSEC TOLD EMBOFF THIS NOT TRUE. HE DID NOT DENY THAT MINISTRY WAS DEVOTING PRELIMINARY THINKING TO MINISTERIAL MEETING, BUT SAID UNTIL NIGERIA AND TOGO FINISH PREPARATION OF DRAFT PROTOCOLS, TALK OF SUCH A MEETING IS PREMATURE. FOUR-MAN DELEGATION FROM TOGO HEADED BY FONMIN HUNDELE WAS IN LAGOS OCT 21 TO DISCUSS ECOWAS PROTOCOLS WITH FMG OFFICIALS. THE FOUR PROTOCOLS COVER DEFINITION OF ORIGIN OF PRODUCTS; METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF LOSS OF REVENUE SUFFERED BY A MEMBER STATE AS A RESULT OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION; DETERMINATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY FUND; AND DETERMINATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY BUDGET. NIGERIAN OFFICIAL SAID WORK ON PROTOCOLS WAS MOVING AHEAD BUT REFUSED TO PUT A TIMETABLE ON MINISTERIAL MEETING OR TO SAY WHERE IT MIGHT BE HELD. WHEN IT IS HELD ECOWAS MEMBERS APPARENTLY WILL BE GIVEN DRAFT PROTOCOLS PREPARED BY NIGERIA AND TOGO AND ASKED TO RATIFY THEM IF ACCEPTABLE. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE GIVEN PROTOCOLS BY SEVERAL ECOWAS MEMBERS, FMG APPARENTLY TAKING ITS DRAFTING MANDATE VERY SERIOUSLY.

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